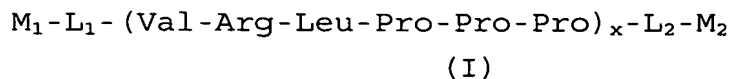


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) 1. A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically or a biologically acceptable
salt thereof, wherein

Val is L-Val or D-Val;

Arg is L-Arg, D-Arg or L-(N-methyl)Arg;

Pro is L-Pro or D-Pro;

Leu is L-Leu or D-Leu;

x is an integer from 1 to 20;

L₁ and L₂ are chemical linkers, which are identical or
different, present or absent;

M₁ and M₂ are pharmacologically and/or biologically active
moieties, which are identical or different, present
or

absent; and

the bond between L₁ and M₁ and the bond between L₂ and M₂
are

of any of the known chemical natures, including
covalent and ionic.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim
1, wherein chemical linkers are independently selected
from peptide sequences up to 10 amino acid residues.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim
1, wherein pharmacologically and/or biologically active
moieties are active pharmaceutical ingredients, nucleic
acids, peptide nucleic acids, peptides, proteins,
carbohydrates, lipids, sterols, nanoparticles,
antibodies, dyes or probes.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-3~~, wherein x is from 1 to 10.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein x is from 1 to 3.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 5, wherein x is 3.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein L₁, L₂, M₁ and M₂ are all absent and, consequently the compound of formula (I) is (Val-Arg-Leu-Pro-Pro-Pro)_x.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 7, wherein x is 3.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 7, having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-6.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compound as defined in any of the claims 7-9 as~~ A cell penetrating carrier comprising a compound of claim 7.

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~[[the]]~~ compound defined in claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, together with appropriate amounts of pharmaceutical excipients.

12. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically effective amount of a ~~[[the]]~~ compound defined in claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, together with appropriate amounts of cosmetic excipients.